App. No.: 10/613,911
Atty. Doc. No.: D03041

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing a secure time signal from a time source to a time requestor over a digital network, the method comprising:

sending a requestor identification to an authentication server; ~~and~~

receiving a public key from the authentication server;

sending a request for a time server ticket;

receiving the request for the time server ticket;

using ~~an information object~~ time server ticket to request the secure time signal wherein the ~~information object~~ time server ticket includes an identification of the requestor and a session key for transferring the secure time signal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from a key distribution center.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from an authentication server.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~, wherein the time server ticket is obtained from a ticket granting-server.

3

App. No.: 10/613,911
Atty. Doc. No.: D03041

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising:

~~Associating a request for a secure time signal with the ticket;~~

transferring the <u>time server</u> ticket with ~~the~~ <u>a</u> request <u>for a secure time signal</u> to a secure time server; and

receiving ~~a~~ <u>the</u> secure time signal from the secure time server.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the request includes a request message, the method further comprising:

generating a nonce to be included in the request message;

including a ~~service ticket~~ <u>session key</u> for the secure time server in the request message; and

including a keyed checksum over the request message.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 7, wherein the secure time signal includes a reply message, the method further comprising

~~including a secure time signal;~~

including ~~a~~ <u>the</u> nonce copied from the ~~client~~ request <u>in the reply message;</u> and

including a keyed checksum over the reply message.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ <u>8</u>, wherein the step of receiving a secure time signal includes the following substeps:

4

App. No.: 10/613,911
Atty. Doc. No.: D03041

matching a the nonce in the ~~received~~ reply message with the corresponding nonce

in the ~~sent~~ request message; and

confirming a the keyed checksum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising

Using the secure time signal to update a clock value.

11-13. (Cancelled)

5